United Nations S/2002/1226

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 November 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 7 November 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the communication dated 5 November 2002 which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

02-68453 (E) 111102

Annex

Letter dated 5 November 2002 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the September monthly report on SFOR operations (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-30 September 2002) there were almost 14,900 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.

2. During the period under review, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable, although there is general concern about increased ethnic tension in Sanski Most (west of Banja Luka) because of the growing number of Bosnian Serbs returning there, and in particular owing to the recent dedication by Bosnian Serbs of a controversial war memorial in the town, which is now inhabited for the most part by Bosniacs.

Security

3. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) continues to contribute towards the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; monitor compliance by the Entity Armed Forces; conduct inspections and consolidation of weapons storage sites; provide support to the international organizations working in theatre, and to the Federation authorities in collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest; and monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout the country.

4. On 6 September, SFOR terminated its operation to ensure a safe environment for the resettlement of Bosniac refugees and displaced persons in the Gacko area which began in December 2000. SFOR will nevertheless continue to have mobile patrols monitor the area.

5. On 5 and 6 September, SFOR conducted a border control operation from the air and on the ground along the borders with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia, and is now analysing the information which resulted from the monitoring of over 3,350 vehicles.

6. On 9 September, there were celebrations throughout the Republika Srpska following the victory of the Yugoslav basketball team at the world championships, which resulted in crowds expressing anti-Muslim sentiments, and brandishing weapons and firing shots in the air close to SFOR troops.

7. On 18 September, an explosion damaged the mosque in Kljuc (near Gacko) which had been reopened recently.

8. On 24 September, the Chief of the Sarajevo Public Security Centre was shot and killed by unknown assailants in front of his house in Sokolac in the Republika Srpska. An investigation is being carried out by local police.

9. On 30 September, with the handover of the last border crossing point in Bosansko Grahovo, the Bosnian State Border Service took control of the entire border from the Entity authorities.

10. SFOR continued Operation Harvest during September. In the period from 1 January to 30 September 2002, the total number of weapons and ammunition collected amounted to: 7,364 small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers); 1,843,189 rounds of ammunition less than 20 mm; 18,862 rounds of ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm; 2,394 rounds of ammunition more than 76 mm; 32,208 hand grenades; 3,614 mines; 7,938 kilograms of explosives; and 42,785 other items (mortars, mortar rounds, rifle grenades, and handmade ordnance).

11. On 5 September, SFOR met the secretariat of the Standing Committee on Military Matters to discuss the status of the document authorizing cross Inter-Entity Boundary Line flights for medical evacuation and search and rescue aircraft. The Committee approved the concept and forwarded the document to the Tri-Presidency for review and approval.

12. From 10 to 13 September, SFOR conducted a training exercise with the Federation Air Force Search and Rescue unit at Raijlovac to familiarize the crews with NATO procedures.

13. On 11 September, SFOR detained a Bosniac man because of his association with a known terrorist now in captivity. On the same day, another man surrendered to SFOR. Both men were subsequently released after questioning.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

14. The Entity Armed Forces carried out regular training activities during the reporting period which were in compliance with the military provisions of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

15. During the period under review, SFOR monitored a total of 224 training and movement activities: 64 VRS (Army of Republika Srpska); and 160 AFBiH (Army of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

16. A total of 515 mine-clearing activities were monitored over this period: 237 VRS; and 278 AFBiH.

17. SFOR also carried out 71 inspections and verifications of weapons storage sites: 39 VRS; and 32 AFBiH.

Cooperation with international organizations

18. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Police Task Force (IPTF), the Office of the High Representative, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

19. On 27 September, SFOR supported local police during the opening ceremony of a mosque in Zepa, and on 28 September SFOR provided security to the White Mosque dedication ceremony in Srebrenica. No incidents were reported during the ceremonies, which were attended by several hundreds of people.

20. During the reporting period, SFOR continued to assist the Office of the High Representative and IPTF by providing daily patrols in the Dobrinja area. On 20 September, in response to a prepared operation, SFOR collected 268 weapons and

over 11,000 rounds of ammunition which were voluntarily handed over by the local population in Dobrinja.

Outlook

21. The security situation is expected to remain stable.